

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: EX-FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD ANNOUNCES REJECTION OF TREATY

SUMMARY: FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND PANAMANIAN TREATY
NEGOTIATOR AQUILINO BOYD ANNOUNCED IN A BLISTERING STATEMENT OF
APRIL 9 HIS PERSONAL REJECTION OF THE NEUTRALITY TREATY AS
AMENDED, WHICH HE BRANDED "INSULTING, IMMORAL AND ILLEGAL".
HE CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO OPENLY DECLARE THE SENATE
RESERVATIONS UNACCEPTABLE WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE VOTE ON
THE SECOND TREATY. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND TREATY NEGOTIATOR AQUILINO
BOYD BROKE A SIX-MONTH PUBLIC SILENCE WITH A STATEMENT ON
THE TREATY ISSUE ISSUED TO THE PANAMA CITY NEWSPAPERS
"ESTRELLA" AND "STAR AND HERALD", WHICH WAS FEATURED IN BOTH
PAPERS' SUNDAY EDITIONS APRIL 9.

2. BOYD'S STATEMENT SAYS AT THE OUTSET THAT, IN VIEW OF THE
SENATE CHANGES TO NEUTRALITY TREATY: "... I HAVE ARRIVED
AT THE CONCLUSION THAT THE NEUTRALITY TREATY HAS BEEN
SUBSTANTIALLY MODIFIED, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO ITS
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REJECTION. THE MOST CORRECT COURSE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT
OUGHT TO TAKE IS TO DECLARE, WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE
SENATE TO FINISH CONSIDERATION OF THE OTHER DOCUMENT...
THAT THE RESERVATIONS MADE TO THE NEUTRALITY TREATY ARE
UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE WE REJECT THE
SAID TREATY."

3. AFTER QUOTING THE NEW YORK TIMES, SEN. DOLE AND TEXT OF DECONCINI RESERVATION, BOYD STATES: "IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO READ THE OFFENSIVE STATEMENTS MADE BY DECONCINI IN SUPPORT OF HIS AMENDMENT TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SENATE, UPON APPROVING HIS PROPOAL, DISFIGURED THE AIMS OF THE ACCORD SIGNED IN SEPTEMBER 1977, BY TORRIJOS AND CARTER, AND WHICH LATE WAS RATIFIED BY THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE IN A PLEBISCITE HELD IN OCTOBER 1977".

4. "IT IS EVIDENT", THE STATEMENT CONTINUES, "THAT THERE IS A FLAGRANT CONTRADICTION WHEN THE DECONCINI AMENDMENT GIVES THE UNITED STATES UNILATERAL RIGHTS TO INTERVENE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PANAMA, SUCH AS FOR EXAMPLE A LABOR STRIKE; AND THE OTHER CLAUSES OF THE TREATY SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NO THOUGHT OF ACTING AGAINST THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF PANAMA AFTER THE YEAR 2000."

5. GIVEN THIS OPINION OF DECONCINI, HE SAID "... I DECLARE MYSELF AGAINST THE ACTION OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF MARCH 16, 1978, IN APPROVING A RESOLUTION OF RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY ON THE NEUTRALITY OF THE PANAMA CANAL WHICH IN MY OPINION IS INSULTING FOR PANAMANIAN, SINCE IT INTERVENES IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, IMMORAL BECAUSE THE POWERFUL ONCE MORE SEEK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO EXERCISE EXCESSIVE POWER OVER THE WEAK, AND ILLEGAL BECAUSE IT GOES CONTRARY TO THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS."

6. BOYD CONCLUDES: "PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THIS IS NOT THE MANNER IN WHICH TO CONSTRUCT A TRUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA, AND NEITHER IS IT THE WAY TO ESTABLISH A NEW ERA BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN MAERICA."

7. ACAN/EFE NEWS SERVICE REPORT ON STATEMENT FBIS/PANAMA PA082000Y PAR.

8. COMMENT: BOYD IS HIGHLY ARTICULATE, OPPORTUNISTIC AND AMBITIOUS. HIS DIATRIBE DOES NOT CHIME VERY WELL WITH THE FACT THAT HE WAS FIRED AS FOREIGN MINISTER PRIMARILY BECAUSE HE WAS TOO FAR OUT AHEAD OF TORRIJOS IN ACCEPTING A U.S. MILITARY ROLE IN PANAMA AFTER 2000. BUT AS A NATIONALIST WITH GOOD, IF NOT QUITE IMPECCABLE CREDENTIALS, BOYD CARRIES WEIGHT. HIS IS ANOTHER VOICE IN THE INCREASINGLY LOUD CHORUS OF PANAMANIAN WHO DO NOT LIKE THE NEUTRALITY TREATY CUM DECONCINI.

JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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